OWEN BROTHERS METERING UK

Complete Guide to Electric Meter Types in the UK

Smart Meters · Sub-Meters · Economy 7 · RTS Phase Out · MID Approval

2026 Guide

owen-brothers.com/electric-meter-types-uk

What This Guide Covers

Utility Meters

Standard, smart, Economy 7, prepayment, RTS

Sub-Meters

Single phase, three phase, CT, Rogowski coil

Legal Requirements

MID approval, GB Measuring Instruments Regs

Remote Monitoring

LoRa, OBM, ReadMyMeter portal

RTS Phase Out

154,000 meters remaining — action required

2026 Changes

MHHS, smart-contingent contracts, Ofgem

What Is an Electricity Meter?

FUNDAMENTALS

A device that measures electrical energy consumed by a property, recorded in kilowatt-hours (kWh).

- Records usage automatically (smart meters)
- Supports multiple tariff rates
- Enables remote meter readings
- Displays real-time consumption data
- Facilitates prepayment services

Energy suppliers use readings to calculate bills and monitor usage.

7 Main Electricity Meter Types in the UK

Utility meters supplied by energy suppliers

Single Rate

One unit rate, all times

Smart Meter

Auto readings, half-hourly

Prepayment

Pay before you use

Economy 7

Day + night rates, 7 hrs off-peak

Economy 10

10 hrs off-peak, flexible

Sub-Meter

Per unit, tenant billing

RTS Meter

Phase out from June 2025

Smart Meters

Now the standard across Great Britain

41M

smart & advanced meters installed by end of 2025

71%

of all GB meters are now smart

Key Benefits

- Automatic readings every 30 minutes
- Eliminates estimated bills
- Supports time-of-use tariffs
- In-home display for real-time data
- Easier supplier switching

Limitation: SMETS1 models may temporarily lose smart function when switching supplier. Communication issues can occur in some locations.

Source: DESNZ Q4 2025 Smart Meters Statistics Report

RTS Meter Phase Out — Action Required

30 Jun 2025	154,000	8,000	FREE
Phase out began	Meters still to replace	Appointments booked	Replacement cost

Signs Your Property Has an RTS Meter

- Separate switch box near meter labelled 'Radio Teleswitch'
- Economy 7 or Economy 10 tariff with electric storage heaters
- Immersion heater charging overnight at cheaper rate
- Letter from energy supplier about meter upgrade

Contact your energy supplier immediately if any of these apply. Replacement is free.

Prepayment, Economy 7 and Economy 10 Meters

Prepayment Meters

Pay before you use electricity via smart card, key, or app.

6 million prepayment accounts across Great Britain (Ofgem, Jan 2026).

Good for: Budget-conscious tenants, HMOs, holiday lets.

Important: Higher unit rates often mean overall costs exceed standard direct debit.

Economy 7 and Economy 10

Economy 7: 7 hrs cheaper overnight electricity. Separate day and night readings.

Economy 10: 10 hrs off-peak across multiple periods. Less widely available.

Good for: Storage heaters, electric water heating, EV charging overnight.

Note: Higher daytime rates — only saves money if usage patterns match.

Sub-Metering

The Essential Solution for Landlords and Commercial Properties

A utility smart meter measures total building consumption only. A sub-meter measures each individual unit, room, or circuit — enabling accurate tenant billing and energy cost recovery.

HMO Landlords

Per-room billing, eliminate energy risk

Commercial Property

Per-unit billing, cost recovery

Industrial Sites

Per-circuit monitoring, high current loads

Student / Holiday

Prepayment, zero unpaid bill risk

Types of Sub-Meter

Sub-Meter Type	Best For	Current Range	Key Feature
Single Phase DIN Rail	HMOs, residential, light commercial	Up to 100A	Simple, cost-effective, MID approved
Three Phase Direct Connected	Small commercial units, offices	Up to 65A (3-phase)	Direct wired, no CTs needed
Three Phase CT Operated	Commercial, industrial units	100A to 3,000A+	External CTs — no need to break supply
Rogowski Coil Meter	Industrial, retrofit without isolation	Up to 10,000A+	Flexible coil, fits awkward positions
Prepayment Sub-Meter	HMOs, student lets, holiday parks	Up to 80A typical	Pre-paid credit, auto-disconnect

All Owen Brothers sub-meters for billing applications are MID approved under the GB Measuring Instruments Regulations 2016.

MID Approval: The Legal Requirement for Billing

What is MID Approval?

MID = Measuring Instruments Directive. Under the GB Measuring Instruments Regulations 2016, any meter used to calculate tenant bills must be MID approved.

This confirms the meter meets required accuracy standards for trade use. A tenant can challenge a bill if the meter is not approved — and there is a penalty of up to £5,000 for installing a non-certified meter for billing.

Accuracy Classes

- **Class A** Domestic / residential
- **Class B** Commercial billing (required)
- **Class C** High-value applications

How to Identify a MID Approved Meter

- The letter M in a hexagonal border on the meter label (e.g. M25 = certified 2025)
- A four-digit notified body number alongside the M marking
- The accuracy class (A, B, or C) displayed on the label
- A serial number and production year — both required under the regulations

Remote Monitoring

No more manual reading rounds

OBmeters.com Portal

How It Works

1 — Sub-meter installed

MID approved meter fitted to each circuit or unit

2 — OBM 4G modem attached

Industrial-grade modem connects to compatible meters

3 — Readings transmitted

Data sent wirelessly via 4G to the OBmeters.com portal

4 — Access anywhere

View real-time data from any laptop, tablet, or phone

Monitor: kWh consumption · Voltage · Current · Power factor · Demand levels · Active and reactive energy

Summary

- 7 main electricity meter types — utility meters for main supply, sub-meters for per-unit billing
- Smart meters now cover 71% of GB — 41 million installed by end 2025
- RTS meter phase out underway since June 2025 — 154,000 still to replace
- MID approval is a legal requirement for any sub-meter used for tenant billing
- Sub-metering is essential for HMOs, commercial buildings, and industrial sites
- Remote monitoring via OBmeters.com eliminates manual reading rounds

Full guide at: owen-brothers.com/electric-meter-types-uk